

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are currently pending. Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11-15, and 18-23 have been amended. New claim 24-27 have been added. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14-20, and 23 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hoover et al. (US Patent No. 5,724,575). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 15, and 20 have been amended to recite, inter alia, mobile user terminals that comprise a situation detector for detecting information on the situation of the user, including data regarding an environment of the user that varies with movement of the user. Claim 14 has been amended to recite inter alia a center that comprises database construction means for adding information based on terminal-side information transmitted by mobile user terminals to an information database, wherein the terminal-side information includes data regarding an environment of each of the mobile user terminals.

These features are disclosed for example on pages 14, 20, 37 and 41 of the specification. In the present invention, user terminals 20 communicate with a center 10 in a mobile environment. Each of the user terminals includes situation detecting means (such as the situation detecting block 31 shown in FIG. 2) for detecting information regarding the current situation of the user. This information is stored within an environment/situation profile. Information associated with the entries discussed beginning on page 17 is described in the environment/situation profile. Information describing these entries depends on locations and time. The environment/situation profile can be edited by a plurality of users to automatically construct an event database with high integrity.

Hoover et al. discloses a method and system for object based relational distributed databases in which a broker computer transforms data received from a plurality of remote

heterogeneous user databases (or user computers) into a homogenous data model. (See Abstract). The user computers are operative to perform data operations of storing, updating, and retrieving user data items in response to user commands. (See Col. 5, Lines 51 – 56).

However, Hoover et al. fails to disclose the features recited in claims 1, 15, and 20, namely, mobile user terminals with situation detecting means for detecting information on the situation of the user, including data regarding an environment of the user which varies with movement of the user, to achieve the novel and nonobvious advantages of the present invention. Further, Hoover et al. fails to disclose the features recited in claim 14, namely, a center capable of data communication with users and with database construction means for adding information based on terminal-side information transmitted by mobile user terminals to an information database, wherein the terminal-side information includes data regarding an environment of each of the mobile user terminals.

Rather, Hoover et al. merely discloses checking security to ascertain access privileges, typically by user password. (See Col. 31, Lines 10 – 11). There is no discussion of mobile user terminals where information is detected in a user environment that varies with user movement and is subsequently transmitted to a center. There is no discussion of database construction means for adding terminal-side information transmitted by mobile user terminals regarding an environment of each mobile user terminal. In contrast to the present invention, the system in Hoover et al. is applicable to the health care industry, the users are organizations, and the user terminals are located at static geographical sites. (See Col. 2, lines 10-56).

Therefore, as the Hoover et al. reference fails to anticipate the invention as recited in claims 1, 14, 15, and 20, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 USC 102 (e) be withdrawn.

Moreover, as claims 2, 4-11, 16-19, and 23 depend from one of claims 1 and 15, these claims are also allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 12, 13, and 21-23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoover et al. in view of Casey et al. (US Patent No. 6,243,745). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner admits that Hoover et al. does not teach features recited in claims 3, 12, 13, and 21-23. The Examiner cites Casey et al. in an attempt to cure the deficiencies of Hoover et al.

Casey et al. teaches a system for configuring computer network operations based upon the correlation of a sequence of interactive display user entries apparently unrelated to computer operations. The entries cover a demographic aspect of the business environment using the network. The demographic aspect includes information for example about address, phone and facsimile numbers, likely quiescent periods for backing up stored computer data, group and job functions, and employee computer hours. (See Col. 5, Line 59 to Col. 7, Line 61).

However, Casey et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Hoover et al. because Casey et al. fails to disclose the features recited in claim 1, namely, situation detection means for detecting data regarding an environment of the user that varies with movement of the user, or the features recited in claim 14, namely, database construction means for adding, inter alia, data regarding an environment of each of the mobile user terminals.

Rather, Casey et al. merely teaches a system where users are prompted for data entry regarding demographic information that a business may need for tax purposes, waivers, or insurance. (See Col. 3, Lines 30-39). There is no discussion of mobile user terminals where information is detected in a user environment that varies with movement and that is subsequently transmitted to a center. There is no discussion of a database construction means for adding terminal-side information transmitted by mobile user terminals regarding an environment of each

of the mobile user terminal. In contrast to the present invention, the system in Casey et al. is applicable to businesses, the users are employees and the user terminals are located at static geographical sites. (See Figures 1 and 2).

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of references teaches away from the present invention. The present invention discloses a system for use in a mobile environment, i.e., a vehicle. In contrast, the combination of references teaches a system for use in a static environment. In addition, the Examiner has summarily dismissed claims 21 and 22 without an explanation as to how the applicability of the references to these claims. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner identify specific portions of the references that provide the necessary teaching or suggestion recited in the claims.

Therefore, as the combination of references fails to make obvious the invention as recited in claims 1, 14, 15, and 20, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 USC 103 (a) be withdrawn.

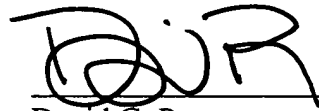
Moreover, as claims 3, 12, 13, and 21-23 depend from one of claims 1 and 14, these claims are also allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claim.

Newly added claims 24-27 respectively correspond to claims 1, 14, 15, and 20 and additionally recite the feature of air conditioning in a vehicle. Support for this feature can be found for example, on pages 19 and 31 of the specification. Therefore, new claims 24-27 should be allowable at least for the same reasons with respect to claims 1, 14, 15, and 20.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request a prompt Notice to that effect.

A two-month extension of time and the requisite fee are included with this Amendment. Please charge any fees that may be due, or credit any refunds, to Deposit Account No. 50-1147.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DGP', written over a horizontal line.

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